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THE SUNDAY JOURNAL HAS DOUBLE THE CIRCULATION OF ANY SUNDAY PAPER IN INDIANA.

Price five cents.

A Christmas Story by Frank R. Stockton.

Special arrangements have been made for the

publication, in next Sunday's Journal, of a

novellette by Frank R. Stockton. It is a Christmas

man love story entitled "Major Pendennis," and

is invested with the usual charm so characteristic

of this writer's work. Stockton has a peculiar

twist in his mental make-up that leads him

to place his characters in the most anomalous

situations, and at the same time give such

happenings an air of the greatest naturalness.

He invariably succeeds in gaining the reader's

attention, and holding it to the end. These characteristics

are well shown in "Major Pendennis," which is as

delightful as it is attractive.

As a better Christmas love story, or, indeed,

a love story of any kind, the outcome is

happy, and the Journal congratulates its readers

on the treat in store for them.

SILVER has declined a little during the

past week, so that the standard silver

dollar is worth a fraction less than 74

cents. Perhaps Governor Hill's suggestion

of a silver dollar worth a gold one in the

smelting-pot has depressed the white metal.

The amount of money in circulation

per capita in this country was never so

large as now—\$24.39—and is larger than

that of any country in the world except

France, but no amount of money can fill

the pockets of those who will not work,

have nothing to sell, or who cannot rest

so long as they have an unspent dime.

OLD negroes in some parts of the

South are being swindled by white men,

who represent themselves as govern-

ment agents authorized to place ex-

slaves on the pension roll. After put-

ting the negro through a pretended ex-

amination he is required to pay a fee,

from \$1 to \$3. It takes a pretty low-

down white man to engage in that sort

of business.

TINZ Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet

company, of New York, the largest car-

pet manufacturing concern in the world,

has issued its price-list for next season.

It shows that carpets of all kinds will

be fully 10 per cent. lower next spring

than they were a year or more than they

have ever been before in the history of

their manufacture. The McKinley bill

gets the credit.

THE fact that Joaquin Miller is a poet

seems to be accepted as an argument

against him by newspaper paragraphers,

who accept without question his disreput-

able father's assertion that his

father ill-treated him. It should be

remembered that the elder Miller has

never been heard from in his own behalf,

either in this case or that of his daughter,

who gained unpleasant notoriety a

year or so ago. His silence is in his

favor. Judgment at least should be

suspended until the other side of the

story is heard. Even a poet may have

some redeeming qualities.

THE Chicago News takes occasion to

rebuke those flippant papers which put

headings over the President's message

like "Little Ben's Message." It says

that even if the message was that of the

will be until Humbert goes." This

simply shows that a man can live in Rome

and yet be utterly ignorant of the tem-

per or purposes of the Italian govern-

ment and people. That King Humbert

will vacate Rome in favor of the Pope is

about as probable as that Emperor

William will abdicate his throne in favor

of a Methodist bishop.

OUR LATEST TERRITORIAL ACQUISITION.

The President says in his message:

"The island of Navassa, in the West In-

dian group, has, under the provisions of

Title 72 of the Revised Statutes, been

recognized by the President as appertaining

to the United States." In other

words, we have acquired the island. It

is not much of an acquisition, and it

came about in an accidental way.

Navassa is a very small guano island,

lying about twenty-seven miles off the

coast of Hayti. In 1872 an American

company established itself on the island

and commenced working the guano de-

posits. Hayti immediately made a vi-

gorous protest against what was termed

a filibustering expedition and claimed

the island as one of her dependencies.

The matter became a subject of diplo-

matic representation at Washington,

but Hayti's protest received no consid-

eration. If she owned the island she

had never asserted her ownership,

though the Haytian authorities did

claim not only that the island was a part

of her geographical system, but that it

is mentioned in their Constitution as be-

longing to her political jurisdiction. Of

course it is not credible that an island

lying only twenty-seven miles from

the mainland should not have been

visited before the American company

took possession of it. They found it

unoccupied and jumped the claim. As

there was no other flag in sight they

raised the American flag. The company

remained in possession and continued to

export the guano under Sections 5570

and 5578 of the United States Revised

Statutes, which provide that whenever

any citizen of the United States discovers

a deposit of guano on any island not

within the lawful jurisdiction of any

other government and not occupied by

the citizens of any other government,

and takes peaceful possession thereof

and occupies the same, "such island

may, at the discretion of the President,

be considered as pertaining to the United

States."

The reason why the President has ex-

ercised his discretionary power of re-

cognizing the island as pertaining to the

United States is in order to extend pro-

tection to the laborers there employed.

The law under which the American

company has been working the guano

deposits on the island also provides

that all crimes committed on any island

so occupied shall be deemed committed

on the high seas, and shall be punish-

able in the United States courts. About

two years ago the laborers on the island

revolted and killed some of the agents

of the company. They were arrested,

brought to Baltimore, tried, convicted

and sentenced to death. The President

commuted this sentence because he be-

lieved that their revolt had been

brought about by cruel treat-

ment. Later he sent a United

States naval vessel to the island, with

directions to the officers to investigate

the condition of the laborers there and

report. They reported a condition of

affairs approaching slavery. The labor-

ers were badly treated, kept on the

island by force, and had no protection

remedy. On this state of facts the

President determined to exercise the

discretion vested in him by law of re-

cognizing the island as appertaining to

the United States. In making this an-

ouncement to Congress he recommends

"legislation that shall place labor con-

tracts upon this and other islands hav-

ing the relation that Navassa has to the

United States, under the supervision of

a court commissioner, and that shall

provide, at the expense of the owners,

an officer to reside upon the islands

with power to judge and adjust disputes,

and to enforce a just and humane treat-

ment of the employees."

It remains to be seen whether our pos-

session of Navassa will be permanent or

not. Hayti has not yet withdrawn her

claim to it, and if she should renew the

claim it might be difficult to resist it on

just grounds. Of course, Hayti could

not enforce the claim, but the United

States could not afford to steal an island

from Hayti. Our present possession of

the island is not necessarily permanent.

The law under which the authority of

the United States has been asserted over

it provides that nothing in the law "shall

be construed as obligating the United

States to retain possession of such

islands after the guano shall have been

removed from the same." Navassa is

only useful for its guano, and after that

is gone there will be no object in hold-

ing the island. The original occupation

of the island savored strongly of fil-

bustering, but the action of the Presi-

dent in taking steps to protect the

American laborers there pending the

settlement of the question as to own-

ership of the island is clearly right.

CONJUGAL AFFECTION AND MONEY.

The advocates of the advancement of

women are likely to take the recent de-

cision of the Indiana Supreme Court re-

garding the right of the wife to sue the

other woman for alienation of her hus-

band's affections as an indication of

progress. They will naturally say that

whereas the Indiana law formerly per-

mitted the husband to demand damages

from the villain who estranged the wife

from her lawful spouse and made no

provision for a similar proceeding by an

aggrieved woman, it was but a proper

and equitable adjustment of matters

that has made legal action possi-

ble on the part of the latter.

If a man, they will say,

can demand of the destroyer of his do-

mestic peace large sums of money as a

salve for his lacerated feelings, why

should not a woman have a like recourse

against her successful rival? Appar-

ently, the Supreme Court saw no reason

in denying the woman the same right,

and answered the conundrum ac-

cordingly; but possibly the court and

the progressive woman aforesaid do not

take into consideration all the motives

that may have led the early legislators

to adopt a statute seemingly so unfair.

When these ancient worthies made it

possible for a husband to ask and ob-

tain thousands of dollars as a recom-

pense for stolen affections they were

certainly demonstrating their be-

lief that such affections were of

high value and their loss a se-

rious injury to the despoiled person.

When they made no arrangement for a

similar demand by a wife, may they not

have been proceeding on the theory that

man was a being with a miscellaneous

stock of affections that might be be-

stowed upon the wife of his bosom or

scattered about promiscuously without

material disadvantage to the wife? In

short, did not the legal fathers compli-

ment woman by rating her affections at

a high figure and discredit man by at-

taching no value whatever to his ten-

derest passions? To be sure, the modern

reading of the law puts more filthy lucre

in sight of the woman whose husband's

vagrant fancy wanders in forbidden

paths, but the progressive sisters should

consider well whether it is a genuine ad-